Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 01515 191308 Z

46

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 INT-08 GSA-01 OEP-01 AID-20

NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SAL-01 SS-14 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-09 NSAE-00 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 L-03 H-02 RSR-01 /151 W ----- 089879

R 171553 Z MAR 73 FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9336 INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BBAK BDIS EIND EMIN PFOR BL

SUBJ: IMPLICATIONS OF TIN PRICE DROP FOR BOLIVIA

REF: LA PAZ 1511

BELIEVE IT PERTINENT TO NOTE THAT IMPACT OF ANNOUNCEMENT ALONE OF PLAN TO SELL RESERVES (PARA 3 REFTEL) HAS IN TWO DAYS CAUSED

TIN PRICE TO DROP FROM OVER US\$2.00 PER POUND TO US\$1.87
PER POUND. WHAT FURTHER EFFECTS THERE MIGHT BE, AND ESPECIALLY THE EFFECTS OF ACTUAL SELLING, REMAIN TO BE SEEN. BUT DOUBTLESS WILL BE FURTHER DROP. AS FOR EFFECT ON BOLIVIA, USG SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IMF HAS CALCULATED US\$1.88 PER POUND AS THE PRICE, AFTER BOLIVIA'S DEVALUATION LAST YEAR, AT WHICH BOLIVIA STAYS EVEN IN REAL TERMS. ANY FURTHER DROP WILL NOT ONLY BE DENYING BOLIVIA SUCH PASSING BENEFITS AS IT HAS RECEIVED FROM RECENT WINDFALLS DUE TO SPECULATION, BUT WILL CUT INTO REAL EARNINGS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO WORK TOWARDS DEFEAT OF THE STABILIZATION PROGRAM WHICH WE URGED BOLIVIA

TO UNDERTAKE AND BACKED WITH MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN DIRECT SUPPORT. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 01515 191308 Z

THE USG IS SURELY AWARE THAT PRESERVATION OF STABILITY IN BOLIVIA AND OF THE BANZER GOVERNMENT, WHICH ACCORDS WITH OUR OWN INTEREST,

DEPENDS LARGELY ON THE SUCCESS OF THE STABILIZATION PROGRAM. SIRACUSA $\,$

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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